

Compost Trouble Shooting

Flies

Causes

- Flies are generally attracted to any easy to eat food that is in their path. Compost bins and heaps are no exception.

What can you do?

- Do not just add food scraps to your compost bin. These should be buried about 6-12" below the surface. If you do not want to touch the compost, you can take extra material to cover the food scraps eg leaves or torn up cardboard. Torn up paper and cardboard will help absorb some of the moisture from the food scraps.
- Leaving the lid off occasionally may reduce the number of flies.
- You will always have some insect activity in your compost heap, in fact you need it. You should try to avoid spraying your heap with insecticide to tackle fly infestations as this can kill the beneficial insects as well.

Remember

The organisms that compost kitchen and garden waste need a balance of water, air, heat and food to survive, this is what you are aiming for in your compost heap.

Good quality compost comes from achieving this balance and a well maintained heap should not suffer from fly infestations for long.

If you print this out when you have finished with it why not rip it up and put it in your compost heap!